

MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2025

Opera superstar Nicole Car makes spectacular return to star in the Sydney premiere of *Rusalka*



Australian born, internationally acclaimed soprano Nicole Car is making her long awaited return to the Joan Sutherland Theatre next month to debut the titular role of *Rusalka* in Czech composer Antonin Dvořák's romantic, melodic opera.

An OA Young Artist alumnus, Nicole will be joined by a dynamic and talented cast of performers including Austrian-Australian tenor, Gerard Schneider who will play the role of The Prince in his OA debut as well as local stars and audience favourites baritone Warwick Fyfe, mezzo soprano Ashlyn Tymms and soprano Natalie Aroyan.

Esteemed conductor Johannes Fritsch will lead the OA orchestra through Dvořák's rich score that blends intricate harmonies and soaring romantic melodies with charming Czech folk music including *Rusalka*'s most famous aria, 'Song to the Moon'.

This new Opera Conference production, by award-winning Director Sarah Giles, whose most recent production of *La Traviata* had two sell-out seasons at the Sydney Opera House, will enchant audiences drawing them along on a mesmerising and dangerous journey.

Combining with creative powerhouses, set designer Charles Davis and costume designer Renée Mulder, Giles' production features an evocative set that creates a dream-like world of light and shadow, courtesy of lighting designer Paul Jackson, and ethereal costumes that glimmer with magic and mystery.

Rarely performed by major companies, this is the first time *Rusalka* will be staged by OA in almost 20 years. It follows the production's premiere in Perth last year by West Australia Opera.

Drawing inspiration from Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale The Little Mermaid long before it was popularised by Disney, Dvořák composed what is regarded as his greatest and most popular work, fusing elements of the fairy tale with Slavic legends of dangerous water nymphs.

Rusalka's desperate longing for the love of The Prince and a desire to escape the depths of the water she has been bound to sets her on a path of magic, risk, sacrifice and danger where she is forced to discover the true cost of love and freedom.

19 July – 11 August | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Creatives

Conductor **Johannes Fritzsch**
 Director **Sarah Giles**
 Set Designer **Charles Davis**
 Costume Designer **Renée Mulder**
 Lighting Designer **Paul Jackson**
 Video Designer and Content Creator
David Bergman
 Movement Director and Intimacy
 Coordinator **Dr Lyndall Grant**

Cast

Rusalka **Nicole Car**
 The Prince **Gerard Schneider**
 The Water King **Warwick Fyfe**
 The Duchess **Natalie Aroyan**
 Ježibaba **Ashlyn Tymms**
 First Wood Sprite **Fiona Jopson**
 Second Wood Sprite **Jennifer Bonner**
 Third Wood Sprite **Helen Sherman**
 Gamekeeper **Andrew Moran**
 Kitchen Boy **Sian Sharp**
 Huntsman **Malcome Ede**

Opera Australia Chorus

Opera Australia Orchestra

This production of Rusalka is by the Opera
 Conference, Australia's national partnership of
 professional opera companies.

Media enquiries

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Performance information

Evenings at 7:00pm

July 19, 23, 26, 29

Aug 1, 5, 11

Matinee at 12.00pm

Aug 9

Running time

Approximately 3 hours and 5 minutes
 including two intervals.

Performed in Czech with English surtitles

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (02) 9318 8200
www.opera.org.au

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
 Sydney Opera House**